

Water Efficient Landscape

A Guide to saving water and money
while maintaining your yard



Turf Tips

- Raise your lawnmower blade - 3-3 1/2-inches the ideal height for grass to remain drought tolerant, and low maintenance.
- Best grasses for Cobb County: Bermuda, Centipede, St. Augustine, Tall Fescue.
- Needs only 1-inch of water per week.
- Over watering creates shallow root system makes grass susceptible to drought.
- Step Test – water your grass only when you step on it and your footprint remains, if it springs back forgo watering.

Know Your Irrigation System

- Use a rain/sprinkler gauge to test your irrigation system.
- Place the gauge in a zone while watering. Time for 15 minutes then measure the water.
- Repeat for each zone.
- Average the totals and multiply by 4 to calculate how much water/hour your system applies.
- Use this calculation to set your irrigation timer.
- Use a rain shut off sensor - a low cost way to prevent water waste.

Outdoor Water Restrictions

- Georgia Department of Natural Resources mandated year round water restrictions – part of the comprehensive drought management plan
- Even & Unnumbered Addresses may water: Mondays, Wednesdays, & Saturdays
- Odd Addresses may water: Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays
- No outdoor watering on Fridays.
- Subject to stricter restrictions based on drought severity.

When Should I Water

- Water after the dewfall, late evenings and early mornings.
- Watering after dewfall prevents water loss due to evaporation.
- Do not water in high winds.
- Do not water during rain events.
- Use a rain gauge to determine how much water yard has received - irrigation should supplement
- Do not water in the heat of the day.
- You can lose up to 65% of water to evaporation.

Make the Most Out of Irrigation

- GA Soil -primarily clay and loam- takes longer for water to penetrate.
- Run your system 10 minutes per zone. Allow thirty minutes for water to absorb before returning to zone.
- Water running off is not getting to your plants.
- Group like plants. Water as efficiently as possible. Water only zones requiring it.
- Annuals need more frequent
- Adjust your sprinkler heads - water plant materials, not sidewalks, driveways, or roads.
- Periodically check system for leaks, broken spray heads.
- Visit www.cobbwater.org to learn How to Read Your Meter and Detect Leaks.

Irrigation System Problems

- “Set it and Forget it” is a myth
- Test system every year when you begin irrigation season.
- High water pressure causes mist heads to fog- water wasted in air - not on plants.
- Bright green spots in yard, standing water may indicate a leak or a broken head.
- Adjust your system for the conditions (rain, cooler temps, etc.), because you can water 3 times does not mean you should – in rainy month turn system off or operate manually.
- If there is water running off – shut off that zone.
- Understand how the system is set up, be able to make adjustments.

Listen to Your plants

- Loving them to death – over watering kills more plants than drought.
- Blackened or slimy leaves, mold at the roots means it is drowning.
- Soft ground under your turf and spots of eroded grass are signs of too much water.
- Plants are actors - they will droop in the heat, check in the early morning and late evening to determine if they require water.
- Over fertilization makes water hungry plants - fertilize only once or twice a year - spring & fall.
- Mulch – great way to hold water in the soil.

Be Unconventional!

Alternate Forms of Irrigation

- Rain Barrels – 1-inch rain provides 600 gal. per 1,000 square inch of roof.
- Tree Irrigation Bags – deliver water slowly to root line of trees, no loss to runoff or evaporation, deep penetration at the roots.
- Drip Irrigation – Excellent for seasonal color beds, slow delivery of water directly to root system, eliminates water loss.

Irrigation Innovation

- Smart Water Technology – Weather Based irrigation controllers.
- Soil moisture sensors – help determine water needs.
- Wireless rain and freeze shut-off sensors.
- Retrofit inefficient mist/spray heads with new water efficient MP Rotator Heads- lower application rate, uniformity, wind resistant.

Thank You Cobb County Water System

